

Application No. 10/762,165
Reply to Office Action dated January 4, 2006
Amendment dated February 3, 2006

REMARKS

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated January 4, 2006. The Examiner requires an election between Group I, Claims 1-16, drawn to a self-clutching o-ring, classified in class 118, subclass 728, or Group II, Claims 17-24, drawn to method for retaining O-ring pads for supporting semiconductor wafers, classified in class 118, subclass 728.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, Claims 1-16. This election is made without traverse.

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are amended. New claims 25-32 are added. Claims 8, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to reduce the government fees for presentation of additional claims 25-32.

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are amended for various reasons unrelated to patentability of the claims. "Self clutching O ring" in the preambles is changed to "Apparatus" to be consistent with dependent claims that include other elements besides the O ring. A structure is added to claim 2, as the proper form for claiming a recess. In claims 4, 5, 12 and 13, the phrase "adapted to" is used to indicate that the recited limitations are characteristics of the O ring, and not method steps. A feature deleted from claim 1 is added to re-written claim 7, the original features of which are canceled without prejudice. Claims 9 and 14 are amended for consistency of language and grammar. Claim 10 is rewritten to depend on claim 2 for compactness, and features of claim 10 already included in claim 2 are deleted from claim 10.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Duane Morris deposit account No. 16-0479.

Respectfully submitted,

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